

# The Colored American

A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

Library of Congress

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VOL. X, NO. 2.

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 19, 1902.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS

## THE SPIRIT OF DIANE

BRUCE GRIT REVIEWS DURHAM'S GREAT NOVEL.

The Thread of the Story and Some Noted Characters That Point a Moral—Graphic Pen Pictures of Haitian Life—President Hypolites Prototype in Fiction.

The Hon. John S. Durham, former minister to Haiti, has added another laurel to his fame as a writer, by contributing to Lippinott's Magazine for April, a complete novel which appears in the current issue of that deservedly popular periodical under the title "Diane—Priestess of Haiti." The scene, of course, is laid in the little black Republic, and the *dramatis personae* are a mixture of Germans and Haitians and an American newspaper correspondent, "Mr. Wiley," of a New York "yellow." The heroine of the story is Diane, a Haitian girl, beautiful, ignorant, weak, more sinned against than sinning, who makes a sacrifice for the man she loves. A German syndicate hatches a revolution in the island for commercial advantages. Diane and Alcide, a protégé of the German minister, Hauffman, furnish the sentiment—the love-making which runs through the story.

Papa Louis, a crafty and cunning old conjuror, is employed by the revolutionists to help them out with their plot. Diane, over whom he exercises a mysterious influence, is necessary to the successful prosecution of their scheme. But Alcide is in the way. He loves Diane, hence heroic methods must be applied. Alcide is forced into the Haitian army. Diane, who loves Alcide very much, is ambitious to become a priestess of the Voodooes, because Papa Louis, who is a skillful and artistic old liar, has told her some things that appeal to her vanity and whet her ambition. Alcide, being forced into the Haitian army through the good offices of a German jayhawker named Meissner, and Papa Louis, is promised immunity from harm by this old fraud by the exercise of his occult powers. After he enlists in the army he appears to have had a very close call and came pretty near reporting for duty in another clime, save for the bad marksmanship of one of the revolutionists. Alcide was declaiming against the execution of recaptured prisoners, which had been ordered by the President, when he was shot at.

He spoils his pretty uniform and feathers by falling as a result of the shock from the report of the gun, into the mud, of which there appears to be considerable in the streets of Port au Prince, whereupon Mr. Wiley, of the New York Prevaricator, which issues an edition every hour, happening to be in the thick of this bloodless revolution, rescues Alcide and forthwith proceeds to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—as a yellow journalist understands it—in regard to this horrible affair. Every time Wiley's facts gave out he immediately drew upon his imagination, and being a capable artist,

## MEN OF THE HOUR.



REV. E. W. LAMPTON, D. D.,

Secretary of the A. M. E. Financial Board, Now in Session at the Fourteenth Street Headquarters. His Report Indicates a Record Breaking Administration.

his word pictures were something wonderful to contemplate. Mr. Wiley had a nose for news. He was fond of snake and fish stories. Some of his own fish stories were marvellous chiefly for their inaccuracies. Mr. Wiley came to Haiti primarily to get confirmation of the alleged truth of an elaborate assortment of well-worded lies, written and promulgated by a dyspeptic Englishman many years ago, named St. John, who asseverated that the Haitians practiced human sacrifice and ate nice, fat babies. Mr. Wiley failed to find the evidence, and this seems to have been a sore disappointment to this fertile genius.

Alcide, so the story goes, makes his escape and goes on a still hunt for Diane. He finds her the center of attraction at a feast. Meissner, the German jayhawker, and a few friends are dining, and she is dancing for their amusement. Angered by the spectacle he seizes a knife and attempts to kill Meissner. Diane performs the Pocahontas act, which resulted more fatally in her case than

in that of her dusky Indian cousin, since the blow intended for Meissner, pierced her sable body, inflicting an injury from which she finally recovers. This little love tragedy, instead of widening the gulf between Alcide and Diane, draws them closer together and they lived happily ever afterward in each other's love and affections. The story is admirably told and is intensely interesting. The author discovers his great familiarity with the ways of the Haitian diplomat and politician, and his attention to details, as they relate specifically and particularly to the affairs of State, and matters of great pith and moment, which from time to time engage the attention of his excellency, and his excellency's keen insight into things going on around him, indicate that the Haitian diplomat and politician knows a few things and knows them tolerably well. Mr. President wore smoked or dark glasses when he was analyzing a visit of whose loyalty he had doubt.

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## TOPICS OF THE TIMES

TRUE REFORMERS BUILDING A BOON TO WASHINGTON.

Mr. Lankford an Architect of Rare Ability—Loving Cup for a Faithful Director—White Corporation Against "Jim Crowism" Because Separate Service is Unprofitable.

J. A. Lankford, M. S., professor of science and superintendent of Industrial Department at Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., was in the city this week, to look over the ground upon which is to be erected the great building of the United Order of True Reformers. He has prepared the preliminary plans in blue print, and they indicate a beautiful structure of five stories, 100 by 60 feet, providing for store rooms, offices, lodge rooms, and a hall, which with gallery and stage, will seat 2,000 persons. The location will be easy of access to the best citizens of Washington, for both business and social purposes. Prof. Lankford's ideas are endorsed by the leading local True Reformers, such as Messrs. C. L. Marshall, W. S. Woodson, Mrs. James and others, and the architect now goes to Raleigh to perfect his designs in accord with the latest instructions of the Order. The building will cost in the neighborhood of \$40,000 and will be a monument to the business genius of Washington. Prof. Lankford is a gentleman of engaging address and made an excellent impression here.

Mr. Frederick Allen was in the city two days last week the guest of his many friends in this city. He was the special guest of Messrs. Gray and Costley who made his sojourn here one long to be remembered. A number of select friends were invited to meet him at dinner last Saturday and to drink from the "loving cup." It took nearly two dozen quarts of Mumm's Extra to satisfy the assembled party and to quench their enthusiasm.

It will be remembered that this "loving cup" was presented to Mr. Allen at Palm Beach, Fla., a short time ago, by the guests of the Hotel Royal Ponciana and his subordinates, as a testimonial of the satisfaction his administration had given. It was made by the expert jeweler, Ganley, and cost \$125. It is "a thing of beauty" and will be "a joy forever."

The presentation speech delivered on that occasion was praised by all as a model of polished eloquence and the eulogy of Mr. Allen's varied abilities was particularly fine, as well as just.

Fredericksburg, Va., Special.—The Weems Steamboat Company has taken an appeal in the case of Capt. D. M. Davis, commander of one of its steamers, who was fined \$25 last week in a magistrate's court, in Lancaster county, on the charge of violating the separate car law for white and colored people, as applied

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